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Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations

Progress report on the processing of claims for equipment contributed and self-sustainment undertaken at peacekeeping missions

Note by the Secretary-General*

Summary

The information contained in the present report is submitted pursuant to paragraph 8 of General Assembly resolution A/55/238, wherein the General Assembly requested the Secretariat to expedite the processing of all claims and to present a progress report in this regard. The report summarizes the current status of contingent-owned equipment claims for equipment and self-sustainment supplied in peacekeeping missions and letter of assist claims for services provided by Member States.

Annex I summarizes the status of claim-months for contingent-owned equipment processed at current missions; annex II presents status of contingent-owned equipment claims at liquidated missions; and annex III presents the status of letter of assist claims at both liquidated and current missions. The information relating to death and disability benefits has been submitted under A/C.5/56/41, and a separate progress report has been submitted for contingent-owned equipment write-off cases at liquidated missions (A/C.5/56/43).

* The document was submitted late to the conference services as certain reforms needed to be implemented prior to its preparation.

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I. Progress on contingent-owned equipment claims

1. In order to better monitor the progress of claims for contingent-owned equipment at current missions, the Secretariat has chosen to report on the number of reimbursement months processed rather than the number of claims enumerated in the previous reports. This change was necessary because the Secretariat now views the number of reimbursement-months as the unit of work, which aligns the processing of amounts due to troop contributors with the approved monthly reimbursement rates under the new contingent-owned equipment methodology. In addition, and in order to expedite the processing of claims for the contingent-owned equipment, major equipment reimbursements are treated and processed separately from the self-sustainment reimbursements. While, as at 30 April 2002, the number of reimbursement-months processed at current missions total 3,342 for major equipment and 2,263 for self-sustainment, the Secretariat plans to process all claims with a turnaround period of three months from the date of receipt.

2. With regard to letter of assist claims at current missions, as at 30 April 2002, 92 claims are being processed.

3. At the liquidated missions, in comparison with the 86 contingent-owned equipment claims pending in 2001, there are currently 33 claims being processed. Of these, 25 claims await concurrence of a troop contributor, one claim is under review while the balance of seven claims have been verified but cannot be certified due to non-availability of funds. With regard to the 89 letter of assist claims pending in 2001, the Secretariat is currently processing 13 letter of assist claims.

4. The new contingent-owned equipment methodology has greatly reduced the time required for processing reimbursements of major equipment and self-sustainment, while improving the efficiency with which claims are calculated and certified. Once the contingent is deployed, the verification reports signed by the Contingent Commander in the field, in conjunction with the signed memorandums of understanding, serve as the basis upon which monthly reimbursement is calculated for a number of months. These calculations take into consideration any substitution and shortfalls of major equipment and self-sustainment undertaken by the contingents. When a reimbursement is certified, it is placed in accounts payable pending disbursement. As at 30 April 2002, the Secretariat has certified and processed a significant number of reimbursements for contingent-owned equipment, at a value of well over $100 million.

5. The processing of contingent-owned equipment claims under the old methodology and the problems/delays experienced was explained in the report of the Secretary-General of 25 May 1994 on effective planning, budgeting and administration of peacekeeping operations (A/48/945, para. 82), which noted that procedures for determining reimbursements to troop contributors for contingent-owned equipment provided had become overly cumbersome and listed in detail the process followed in the certification of claims. Currently 13 troop contributors have opted to remain under the old contingent-owned equipment methodology and the Secretariat continues its efforts to convince them to convert to the new methodology of reimbursement.

II. Summary

6. **The Secretariat expects that, subject to the availability of funds, it will be in a position to process and reimburse contingent-owned equipment payments to Member States more frequently than in previous years, particularly in view of the fact that its ability to do so has been further strengthened by the recent addition of posts to the Finance Management and Support Service.**

Annex I

Status of claim-months processed under the new methodology at current peacekeeping missions as at April 2002

Mission[a]	*Number of countries*	*Units deployed*	*Number of claim-months certified with signed memorandums of understanding*	
			Major equipment	*Self-sustainment*
MONUC	8	28	58	71
UNAMSIL	15	69	328	26
UNDOF	3	3	53	-
UNFICYP	3	3	92	19
UNIFIL	7	7	161	64
UNIKOM	1	1	-	-
UNMEE	12	19	114	120
UNMIK	8	11	119	119
UNTAET	24	51	495	476
Total	**81**	**443**	**3 005**	**2 263**

[a] MONUC: United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo; UNAMSIL: United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone; UNDOF: United Nations Disengagement Observer Force; UNFICYP: United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus; UNIFIL: United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon; UNIKOM: United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission; UNMEE: United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea; UNMIK: United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo; UNTAET: United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor.

Annex II

Status of claim-months processed under the old contingent-owned equipment methodology at current peacekeeping missions as at April 2002

Mission[a]	*Number of countries*	*Units deployed*	*Number of claim-months certified*
MINURSO	4	4	138
UNDOF	1	1	-
UNFICYP	3	3	-
UNIFIL	1	1	-
UNIKOM	3	3	137
UNOMIG	1	1	62
Total	**13**	**13**	**337**

[a] MINURSO: United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara; UNDOF: United Nations Disengagement Observer Force; UNFICYP: United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus; UNIFIL: United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon; UNIKOM: United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission; UNOMIG: United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia.

Annex III

Status of letter of assist claims being processed at peacekeeping missions as at April 2002

Mission[a]	*Number of countries*	*Number of claims*
Current missions		
MINURSO	1	2
MONUC	5	14
UNAMSIL	6	19
UNDOF	1	1
UNFICYP	3	6
UNIFIL	5	8
UNMEE	6	17
UNMIBH	2	3
UNMIK	4	5
UNMOGIP	1	1
UNTAET	7	16
Total	**41**	**92**
Liquidated missions		
MINURCA	2	4
MONUA/UNAVEM	2	1
UNAMIR	1	1
UNOSOM	2	2
UNPREDEP	1	1
UNPF	2	3
UNTAES	1	1
Total	**11**	**13**

[a] MINURSO: United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara; MONUC: United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo; UNAMSIL: United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone; UNDOF: United Nations Disengagement Observer Force; UNFICYP: United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus; UNIFIL: United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon; UNMEE: United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea; UNMIBH: United Nations Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina; UNMIK: United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo; UNMOGIP: United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan; UNTAET: United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor; MINURCA: United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic; MONUA/UNAVEM: United Nations Observer Mission in Angola/United Nations Angola Verification Mission; UNAMIR: United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda; UNOSOM: United Nations Operation in Somalia; UNPREDEP: United Nations Preventive Deployment Force; UNPF: United Nations Peace Forces; UNTAES: United Nations Transitional Administration for Eastern Slavonia, Baranja and Western Sirmium.